

# THE KNOXVILLE INDEPENDENT

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## Christmas Comes But Once a Year



### WHERE TO PLACE PARTIALLY UNFIT

Problem of Rejected Workers Is  
Becoming of Vast Im-  
portance.  
**MEANS AN ECONOMIC LOSS**

Development of the War Has Stim-  
ulated Consideration as to What  
Is the Duty of the State Un-  
der the Circumstances.

By WILLIAM L. CHENERY.

During recent years many industries have begun to require applicants for work to pass physical examinations. The report of the examining physicians decides the applicant's chance for a job. In some cases it also determines the kind of task to which he is assigned.

The army and navy have traditionally maintained the same system. Employers adopted it partly as a result of the workmen's compensation acts. So long as they were compelled to insure against accidents, they felt that they should at least have healthy employees. The healthy worker was also naturally regarded as more efficient. Organized labor at times has been opposed to these examinations, but without success. The tendency has still spread. Nearly every important argument does favor the system.

The plight of the men rejected caused labor to protest. For a time no other group in the state seemed to be interested. Plainly individual business concerns had no responsibility for the men they declined to employ. Consequently they were forced to drift to the industries not surrounded by fences of medical examinations. That, however, was no solution of a very real problem.

One Chicago firm, for example, last year examined upward of 17,000 applicants. It rejected only 3.2 per cent on account of physical disqualifications. Yet that small fraction meant 577 men and women. Those familiar with industrial examinations estimate that several thousand workers are refused employment in Chicago alone every year because of health disabilities. In the aggregate the number is very large. A veritable army of the partially unfit are finding work harder to obtain.

In most cases the rejected workers lack the money, the time and the necessary information to correct their own troubles. The problem which they present is nobody's business. The state ought of course to look after them, but at the present time both the machinery and the public opinion needed to support such an activity are wanting. We are not yet ready to take on this responsibility.

Great stimulation has been given this recovery of the industrially disabled by the development of the war. Labor is of course scarce, but more than that the plans for rehabilitating the victims of war have given impetus to the rehabilitation of the victims of peace. In time this work ought to be taken over by the city, county or state. After all the public has finally to pay directly and indirectly for the economic losses of industrial unfitness. On the crude basis of dollars the evil cannot indefinitely be ignored.

**Army to Recruit Mechanics.**

Several thousand men with experience as mechanics, machinists, blacksmiths and storage battery experts are needed for the motor section of the ordnance department of the army. Applicants will be graded as first-class sergeants after a special course in the handling of motor-driven vehicles, tanks and field artillery at one of the ordnance training camps.

### WAR TALKS

By UNCLE DAN

Number Four

Military Training Necessary for Safety  
and Defense.

"Say, Uncle Dan," said Billie, "Jimmie and I have been looking up about war in the encyclopedia at school. We found that in the war between Germany and France in 1870-71, Germany lost in killed and wounded 28,000 soldiers while France lost about six times as many, and besides that, she lost every battle. We asked Professor Slocum why this was. He said that the German army was highly trained and ably commanded, while the French soldiers were poorly trained; and that their war department was honey-combed with jealousy and politics; that the officers were not much good, and that's why France lost the war and so many men. What do you think about it, Uncle Dan?"

"Well," said Uncle Dan, "Professor Slocum is right. By inefficiency France lost that war, together with two of her best provinces—Alsace and Lorraine—and had to pay a billion dollars indemnity money. France today learned her lesson by that sad experience, so she put in universal military training, and as a result, her soldiers now know how to fight and how to protect themselves. They are losing less men in the war than the Germans. France also put politics out of her war department, so that expert authority, instead of bureaucratic stupidity, now directs the army. The result is, France has one of the best and most efficient armies ever assembled, and this shows what thorough training and good leadership means in warfare. This saved France in this crisis, as well as the liberties of the world."

"As war is now conducted, there is no place for an untrained man. A body of 10,000 well trained soldiers properly handled could defeat five times their number of raw recruits and do it every time with comparatively small loss to themselves. Proper training alone will reduce the death and casualty rate one-third of what it otherwise would be, and right here is an unanswerable argument for universal military training."

"Our government has no moral right to force her men into war service without properly training them for it. To do so is simply murder, hence the frantic effort that is now being made to give her soldiers some training before they are sent to the front. If we are to win this war, it will take trained men to do it, and it will take trained men to win any other war that may come upon us in the future. If we must fight, let us fight to win and not to lose."

"That's the stuff," said Billie.

Continuing, Uncle Dan said: "Our government has expended about \$300,000,000 to put up cantonments and training stations in order to train the men called by the selective draft. When these men are trained the training stations should be immediately filled with younger men, say those in their nineteenth year, to receive six months of intensive military training along the lines of the Chamberlain bill. This will be of immeasurable benefit to them individually. It will do them more good than any other two years of their whole life; it will make them strong, manly, self-reliant, quick to see and quick to act; it will equip them for a successful life. In short, it will rebuild American manhood and will also give the government a body of trained men to draw from in case it is necessary to defend our flag and country. We must settle this question of universal military training immediately, otherwise these training camps may be demolished. The adoption of universal military training will be no-

Madonna and Child.



From Painting by Sienca

lice to the world that from them we will be prepared to defend ourselves promptly and efficiently, and this will do more to keep us out of war in the future than anything else we could do."

"Do you think, brother," said Mrs. Graham, "that there will ever be another war?"

"I have no doubt about it," said Uncle Dan. "So long as men are selfish, so long as nations are ambitious to acquire territory, so long as population presses and demands more room, so long as there remains a scramble for world trade—so long wars will be. When the time comes that we reach the high plane for which we hope and dream, when all will recognize the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, then, and then only, will wars cease. When that day comes doors will need no locks, banks will need no vaults to protect their treasures, but that day is a long way off."

"The only safe and sane plan is to be able to defend ourselves at all times. Therefore, every citizen should insist that senators and congressmen shall provide for universal military training, so that never again shall the country be caught so completely unready as this war found us. Fortunately, in this case, our enemy has been held back, so we have had a few months in which to prepare. This advantage probably will never come again. It is however our salvation today."

"Because she was ready, Switzerland is an island of peace in a sea of war. Safety first is good, but safety always is better. In strength there is safety. You never saw a tin can tied to the tail of a bulldog. There is a reason."

The U. S. Bureau of Mines claims that of 750,000,000 tons of coal mined annually, 250,000,000 tons are wasted in production.

### Postal Employees Want Increase.

Uncle Sam's postal employees—mail carriers, clerks and others employed in handling mail matter—are making a nationwide appeal for increased pay. Four organizations are working to the same end. The organizations are: The United National Association of Postoffice Clerks, with 28,000 members; the National Federation of Postoffice Clerks, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, with 10,000 members; the National Association of Letter Carriers, with 40,000 members, and the Railway Postal Clerks' association, with 18,000 members.

### Government Helps Workers.

Rear Admiral Francis T. Bowles, retired, head of the construction department of the United States Emergency Fleet Corporation, announced at Baltimore that he had been authorized to loan enough money to build 1,500 houses for workmen of the Sparrows Point branch of the Bethlehem Steel company. The problem of housing nearly 4,000 workmen and their families has been giving the Baltimore city officials serious concern.

### Shipyards Speeding Deliveries.

American shipyards whose construction was commandeered by the government completed in one week 20,000 tons of merchant shipping. The shipping board announced that this brought their total output since the commandeering order was issued, August 4, up to 28 vessels of 159,000 tons capacity.

With speeding-up processes under way tonnage soon will begin to come from the yards at a much faster rate than that, shipping board officials predicted.

The first ship of the government's great fleet of nearly 1,000 vessels for which contracts have been let was completed in the Skinner & Eddy plant at Seattle November 24. It is of steel, of 8,800 tons capacity and a designed speed of 11 knots. The first of the wooden ships was launched about December 3.

### British Shipbuilders Worried.

The North of England Steamship association is anxious about the present and future shipbuilding position of Great Britain, and has adopted a resolution expressing deep concern over the fact that large orders have been placed with British shipbuilders by neutral owners at \$25 per ton for delivery after the war. This was regarded as a serious menace to the maritime supremacy of the country. The amounts recovered for vessels lost could not possibly be sufficient to replace tonnage at anything like such a figure and the association called on the government to take such steps as would enable British owners to rehabilitate the British mercantile marine.

### Flour Held in Warehouses.

Cincinnati, O.—That \$1,000,000 worth of flour is being held in the warehouses of a certain railroad company upon which no taxes are being paid was the startling declaration made by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Louis H. Capelle in Insolvency Court at the hearing before Judge Kelley of the injunction suit by the Fred Pagels Co., warehouse owners, to prevent the collection of taxes upon several hundred thousand dollars' worth of goods said to be held in storage by the company.

### Shells Explode in Ammunition Plant.

Wilmington, Del.—Officials of the projectile-loading plant of the Bethlehem Steel Co., near Newcastle, where 4,000 three-inch shrapnel shells exploded during a fire, killing one man, are not convinced that the origin of the fire was an accident. A statement given out by P. G. Paris, Superintendent of the plant said: "Although I have not yet completed my investigation as to the origin of the fire, I do not see how it could have been accidental."

### KEEP UP LABOR STANDARD

Warring European Countries Re-  
alize Danger in Relaxation of  
Employment Rules.

Labor standards of the warring European countries, which were relaxed at the beginning of hostilities when mobilization made necessary the recruiting of women and children for work usually performed by men, are being restored in most countries and strengthened in others, according to information compiled by the children's bureau of the department of labor.

"Experience proved that the relaxing of standards failed of its purpose," says the report. "Definite steps were taken by the governments to restore the provisions of the labor law, because they were found to be essential not only to the conservation of the available workers, but to the quantity and quality of their output."

Increase in the number of women and children workers, according to the report, has made more widespread and serious the effects of relaxing employment standards. In France, Germany and Italy there has been a great increase of home work on government contracts, "with its customary evils of long hours and low wages."

"The point which stands out unmistakably from the foreign experience," the report continues, "is the general realization that the labor standards achieved in times of peace are none too high to promote the efficiency of work, the intensity of output and the general level of health which are absolutely essential to the nation's welfare in war time."

### WOMEN SUCCESSFULLY TAKE PLACES OF MEN.

Invasion of women in the industries of the land was never so vividly shown as in the city of Warren, Pa., during the past few weeks when the calling of over 800 young men to war created many vacancies in the ranks of labor. During the past few weeks, since the young men responded to the call to the training camps, women have appeared in several lines of endeavor into which they had previously never ventured. Lathes are being "manned" by the women and girls and in this they excel the men, their daily output being, after a few weeks' practice, above that of the men formerly employed. One manager says: "The experiment is a success and we will use many women hereafter. Where dexterity is required, the women excel the men and only on the heavier work are they unable to compete on an equality with the men."

### War Labor and Efficiency.

The ordnance department of the army has issued strict rules for the employment of labor on war contracts. Arsenal commanders and manufacturers are warned that long hours and unsafe conditions do not make for efficiency.

The working day should be no longer than ten hours. The order says the trend in the industrial world is toward eight hours. Overtime, even at "time and a half," is discouraged.

An eight-hour shift, a Saturday half-holiday in summer and, perhaps, throughout the year, observance of legal holidays and one day of rest in seven are urged, as well as fire and sanitary protection, good heat, light and ventilation.

The wage standard of the locality should not be lowered and living be fixed with regard to the cost of food, says the memorandum.

A section is devoted to the welfare of women. Eight hours, no night shifts, four and a half-hour working periods, Saturday half-holidays and seats with backs are recommended.